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## PARTISANSHIP AND THE CENSUS.

BY THE HON. ROBERT P. PORTER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ELEVENTH CENSUS.

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IN ACCEPTING the invitation of the editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW to write an article on the census, it was my original intention to make the paper entirely statistical. The general and current interest just now exhibited in the census is sufficient reason for considering the subject from a different stand-point. An off year in politics and the dull season following the adjournment of Congress have been somewhat enlivened by the frenzical attacks on the Eleventh Census. The batteries of some of our leading journals have poured forth broadside after broadside of invective upon those responsible for the work. In fact, the leaders of this wild crusade have resorted to every ingenious partisan trick to work up public sentiment against the census, and apparently for no cause save the fact that the population of the country did not reach the expected total and the count in two or three large cities was disappointing. The variegated resources of sensational journalism have been strained during the last two months in the discovery of new plots, in the unearthing of deep-laid conspiracies, and in the patching together of some hideous monstrosity to alarm the people and stir up partisan prejudice against the results of the census.

This decennial census epidemic—for it usually follows an enumeration of the people—first appeared in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and had its origin in the bitter rivalry between these two ambitious cities. It assumed State proportions in Oregon after the official returns from the neighboring State of Washington had been made public. Checked by the exposure by the Census Office of the frauds and padding in the twin cities of the Northwest, the refusal of a recount for Oregon, and the demonstration of the substantial accuracy of the counts in a score of important cities, North and

South, it finally broke out with redoubled partisan fury in New York city. The official count of the population of the metropolis as it now stands was made public by the Census Office on July 17, and yet no complaint was made until September, when the Board of Aldermen passed resolutions declaring the census of June "inadequate" and demanding a recount, but offering no proof whatever of the omission of names.

The value of the census as an issue in the pending municipal campaign was at once recognized by politicians, and the mayor ordered an October census, designating the police as enumerators. In a city like New York a census taken in October would naturally show an increase over a census taken in June of the same year. The later period would have the advantage of including thousands of families, with their domestic help, who are absent in the summer. The difference in the hotel population alone would also favor the October count. In the lower quarters of the city thousands of wage-earners annually seek employment in the country, on the lakes and rivers, in brickyards, and as waiters or other help in the large hotels at mountain and seaside resorts, where New-Yorkers literally swarm during the summer months. Nor is this the only advantage. June, July, August, and September are heavy immigration months, and it is a demonstrable fact that in some districts of the city the increase found by the police in October is largely traceable to this influx of immigrants remaining in New York. During these months at least 125,000 immigrants arrived at this port.

At the time of the June enumeration the current of public opinion in this particular was running against the Federal enumerators, as the very journals now bitterly complaining of omissions were declaring the questions required by the Census Act inquisitorial, and urging citizens to refuse to answer them. The police, on the other hand, were hampered by no disagreeable questions relating to mortgage indebtedness or physical disability, handicapped by no instructions except a general desire on the part of those directing the work to secure all the names possible, and backed by the newspaper press. That they should be able to obtain a more formidable list of names is no more a matter of surprise to those who know anything about census methods than is the fact that the honorable mayor of New York finally refused to submit that list to the Federal authorities for comparison and

verification. A list of names thus taken is utterly worthless as a census, but would be of value in checking the June enumeration. As the case now stands, there is no more reason to believe that the alleged difference, after taking into consideration the conditions under which the two enumerations were made, is due to the omissions of June than to the additions and duplications of October. The presumption, however, is strongly in favor of the Federal census, for that is a matter of permanent public record ; but the mayor has thus far failed to turn his schedules over to the proper authorities at Washington for examination.

While the dissatisfaction with the total population of New York city has been "worked for all it is worth" for political purposes, the fact that the population of the country, all told, is not likely to reach quite 63,000,000 is also being used to give importance to the groundless and absurd cry of a partisan census. The editor of one leading New York paper actually argues that, because the country increased 59.51 per cent. in twenty years, from 1860 to 1880, therefore the country should increase one-half as much, or 29.75 per cent., in ten years, from 1880 to 1890, and then, because the actual rate of increase according to the census does not reach this figure, proceeds to demonstrate that it is a "partisan census." A very elementary knowledge of arithmetic only is necessary to show that the percentage of increase of a country in ten years is not one-half the percentage of increase for twenty years, but something very different ; so that if the able editor of this somewhat pretentious Mugwump journal had properly made his comparison, he would have seen that the percentage of increase for ten years as based upon the increase of the country from 1860 to 1880 was 26.03 per cent., with which the actual increase from 1880 to 1890—24.57 per cent.—compares very favorably.

No fair-minded man who has taken the trouble to acquaint himself with the organization known as the Census Bureau could possibly be brought to believe the charge of a "partisan census," for the simple reason that a partisan census is an impossibility—unless it be possible to corrupt an army of nearly 50,000 enumerators, who have been marshalled and commanded and supervised by scientific men and experts of all political parties, and whose returns have been handled, computed, tabulated, and worked into results by men and women

representing all shades of political opinion. The only partisanship about the census has been the partisan attacks upon it, and those have been largely based on ignorance or indifference in respect of facts. Precisely the same thing, however, occurred in 1880. No sooner were results declared than partisan newspapers poured forth volley upon volley of vituperation against the Census Office because of alleged frauds in the Southern States. At that time the following table of percentages of growth formed the specific target for party malice, prejudice, and ignorance, supported, as at present, by a vigorous and somewhat inharmonious chorus of disappointed municipalities with police censuses and demands for recounts :

States.	Per cent. of increase.—	
	1860 to 1870.	1870 to 1880.
Virginia .....	<i>a</i> 4.4	23.4
North Carolina.....	7.9	30.6
South Carolina.....	0.2	41.0
Georgia.....	11.9	30.2
Alabama.....	3.4	26.6
Mississippi.....	4.6	36.6
Louisiana.....	2.6	29.3
Kentucky.....	14.3	24.8
Tennessee.....	13.4	22.5

*a* Of Virginia and West Virginia together.

It was widely charged that nothing short of an infamous and deeply-laid plot could have produced such a sudden and extraordinary change as the above. Accustomed to surprises as statisticians are, General Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of both the Ninth and Tenth Censuses, was not satisfied with the results, and an investigation was ordered and a recount made in the State of South Carolina, where the increase had been most astonishing. This inquiry established the accuracy of the Tenth Census to the satisfaction of all reasonable persons, but for long after that we heard the cry of a padded census in the Southern States. These charges were vigorously combated by Superintendent Walker, who said in one of his reports :

"The entire ground for impeaching the integrity of the recent census was found in the reported gain of population between 1870 and 1880. The results of the investigation hereinbefore detailed place, beyond possible question by any fair-minded man, the entire fault upon the census of 1870."

The fact was demonstrated that, under the census law which intrusted the United States marshals with taking the census, the census of 1870 was grossly deficient in the Southern States. A study of these facts at once disposed of the wild and partisan charge upon the ten thousand officers employed in the service throughout the Southern States that they were engaged in the

perpetration of "a monstrous political crime" through "a gigantic conspiracy to falsify the census."

What was true in 1880 applies with equal force in 1890. The law under which the Eleventh Census was taken is practically the same as that under which General Walker took the Tenth Census. A few questions, such as those relating to the veterans of the war, to mortgage indebtedness, and to the separation of negroes into black, mulatto, quadroon, and octoroon, were added by Congress. As far as possible, the organization of the Census Office is the same. In no case have chiefs or experts been selected because of their political faith, but in every case in consequence of statistical training, special knowledge, or service in the Tenth Census. The Census Office is divided into twenty-five important divisions. Sixteen of these divisions are in charge of men chosen in 1880 for the same work by my predecessor, General Walker. There are among them Democrats, Republicans, Mugwumps, Free-Traders, and Protectionists. The population division is in charge of a statistician who received his training from Colonel Carroll D. Wright, and was recommended to me by that gentleman as the best-equipped man for the place in the country, and the man he would have selected if Superintendent of Census. The remaining divisions—those of church statistics; wealth, debt, and taxation; national and State finance; farms, homes, and mortgages; agriculture; mines and mining; statistics of Indians; and supervisors' correspondence—are in charge of eminent and capable experts, with national and foreign reputations in their several lines of statistical work. Besides those having charge of divisions, there are from twenty to thirty expert special agents making special investigations, three-fourths of whom were employed in the Tenth Census, and not one of whom was appointed for political reasons. To invalidate the Eleventh Census, therefore, is to attack the integrity of nearly every man who took part in the Tenth Census. To question the fitness of the appointments is to discount the judgment of the first census expert in the United States, perhaps in the world, General Walker, for he has pronounced them as a whole "almost perfect."

With every avenue through which "monstrous political crime" and "vile conspiracy" could stalk guarded by men whose characters are unquestioned, whose integrity cannot be impeached, whose ability is known, and whose standing is recognized in sci-

tific and statistical circles throughout the country, how is it possible to falsify the census for political purposes? By the aid of the supervisors? Let us see. The supervisors were appointed, on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, by the President of the United States. Their claims, however, were in every case carefully examined by the department. Those gentlemen were not selected from one political party. In many States their appointments were not regarded by the honorable Secretary as political, and on the credentials of not a few of those in the Southern States may be found the names of some of the most powerful of Democratic Senators and Representatives, testifying to their qualifications. In the selection of enumerators the office had to depend largely upon the judgment of the supervisors, though all applications were examined impartially at the Census Office, alike by Democratic and Republican experts, and in no instance was an appointment refused to a competent man for political reasons. Complaints came in from local leaders that Democratic enumerators were being appointed throughout the South. The answer was, Are they competent?—incompetency alone being cause for removal.

The office force in Washington has been made up in precisely the same way, and ability to do the work has been the only test. All applicants for minor clerkships have been compelled to pass a more thorough examination than that required for the same grade by the Civil-Service Commission, and without such examination only those who have passed the full clerkship examination of the commission have been accepted by the Census Office. Among those recommending these bright and efficient young men and women may be found the names of the most prominent and influential Democrats in the United States, most of them, no doubt, glad and proud to help worthy and capable applicants from their districts to secure employment. The charge that there was any politics in a majority of these appointments I deny, and in this denial I will be sustained by the Secretary of the Interior, who makes them, and by honest Senators and Representatives of both political parties. The census clerks thus appointed and trained by the fully-equipped corps of chiefs and assistants who did effective service in the Tenth Census cannot be excelled by any similar number of clerks in any other department of the government. How the Democrats would have used this vast Federal patronage

I know not; but I do know, and can fearlessly state, that it is my belief that the great masses of Republicans would never consent to let the Census Office be converted into a political machine, and, acting in that belief, the work in every branch is open to the closest inspection.

The charges, therefore, of partisanship in the management of the Census Office cannot for a moment be sustained, while the results already published, when analyzed, as effectively stamp out the false allegations of a partisan census as would the production of the alleged "corpse" in good health by the defence in a trial for murder.

Attention is invited to the following table showing the numerical increase in the population of the United States in each decade from 1790, together with the percentage of increase :

Population. (1790)	Population. (1800)	Increase.	Per cent. of increase.
3,929,214	5,308,483	1,379,269	35.10
(1800) 5,308,483	(1810) 7,239,881	1,931,398	36.38
(1810) 7,239,881	(1820) 9,633,822	2,393,941	33.07
(1820) 9,633,822	(1830) 12,866,020	3,232,198	33.55
(1830) 12,866,020	(1840) 17,069,453	4,203,433	32.67
(1840) 17,069,453	(1850) 23,191,876	6,122,423	35.87
(1850) 23,191,876	(1860) 31,443,321	8,251,445	35.58
(1860) 31,443,321	(1870) 38,558,371	7,115,050	22.63
(1870) 38,558,371	(1880) 50,155,783	11,597,412	30.08
(1880) 50,155,783	(1890) 62,480,540	12,324,757	24.57

A glance at the foregoing table shows that the numerical increase of the population in decennial periods has steadily increased, the greatest increase being for the last decade. To the variations in the percentage of increase the attacks are therefore directed. Thus one angry editor in Massachusetts exclaims : "The total given in this census is so absurd that criticism stands amazed at the idiotic exhibition." Another paper says editorially : "Granting the census of 1870 was grossly defective in the Southern States, this theory does not explain away the 35.5 per cent. rate of increase made

between 1850 and 1860 ; and the 35.8 per cent. made in 1840-1850 ; and the 32.6 per cent. made in 1830-1840 ; and the 33.5 per cent. made in 1820-1830 ; and so on."

The Census Office does not deal in theories, and has no theory to offer in explanation of the stubborn facts which a careful enumeration of the people brings to light. The inaccuracy of the Ninth Census in the Southern States has been demonstrated by extensive investigation and publicly admitted by the officer who took it. Moreover, the evidence of those omissions has been accepted as the reason for the apparently-abnormal growth in the States referred to above between 1870 and 1880, and it must be accepted as the reason for the normal and satisfactory growth which the Eleventh Census shows to have taken place in these same States between 1880 and 1890. What is capable of absolute proof must be accepted. The idea that, if the percentage of increase in the population of a State or nation shows a falling-off, such falling-off is an indication of incomplete enumeration is fallacious and, if carried to excess, grotesque. Nothing, in short, could be further from scientific truth. Unless the gain in a State or country is abnormally large, a decrease in the percentage of increase will always be manifest. To show that there are other census results which have been accepted as substantially correct, but which display greater vagaries than do the United States census returns, the following table has been prepared :

POPULATION OF MASSACHUSETTS—1765 TO 1885.

Census periods.	Years comprehended in each period.	Percentage of increase in period.	Percentage of increase for United States.
1765-1775.....	11	23.88	.....
1776-1790.....	14	28.37	
1790-1800.....	10	11.63	35.10
1800-1810.....	10	11.63	36.38
1810-1820.....	10	10.85	33.07
1820-1830.....	10	16.64	33.55
1830-1840.....	10	20.85	32.67
1840-1850.....	10	34.81	35.87
1850-1860.....	10	23.79	35.58
1855-1865.....	10	11.89	(1860-70) 22.63
1865-1875.....	10	30.38	(1870-80) 30.08
1875-1885.....	10	17.57	(1880-90) 24.57

In his analysis of the population returns for 1885 Colonel Wright, Commissioner of Labor, who was in charge of the census, said :

"The gain, therefore, in the last decade (1875-1885) is 290,229, or 17.57 per cent. From 1865 to 1875 the State gained 384,881, or 30.38 per cent., a much larger gain than during the decade from 1875 to 1885. *As the State grows older the percentage of gain from decade to decade will decrease.*"

If we proceed upon the assumption that the State, having shown

a gain of 30.38 per cent. from 1865 to 1875, should show the same gain from 1875 to 1885, we should have had a population in Massachusetts of 2,153,762 in 1885, instead of 1,942,141, as enumerated. On the same basis the population in 1890 should be 2,480,918, instead of 2,233,407, as enumerated. The gain from 1885 to 1890 (five years) was 291,266, or very nearly 15 per cent. Who can explain why the State gained 15 per cent. in five years (1885-1890) and only 17.57 per cent. in ten years (1875-1885)? Who can explain a variation of 23.96 per cent. between the increase from 1810 to 1820 (10.85 per cent.) and that from 1840 to 1850 (34.81 per cent.)?

The widest variation in these United States figures is but 13.75 per cent., being between 36.38 per cent. (1800-1810) and 22.63 per cent. (1860-1870). Why should certain variations in percentages in the United States figures be taken as presumptive evidence of fraud or incomplete enumeration, when larger variations in the Massachusetts figures have never been assailed by the same critics?

The fact is as stated: unless the growth is abnormal, the percentage of increase in population grows smaller as the country grows larger, for the numerical increase becomes a percentage of a constantly-increasing number. To argue against this is to argue against all the past experience of nations. It is not likely that the percentage of increase of population in this country will ever again be lifted to a height that will satisfy the boundless enthusiasm of those who calmly denounce a gain of nearly twelve millions and a half in ten years as an "idiotic exhibition."

It has been shown already that the astonishing increase in the population of certain Southern States in 1880 led to an investigation, and finally to the conclusion that there were serious defects in the Ninth Census in those States. If the census of 1880 had exhibited the same percentage of increase in these States as shown in the Eleventh Census, our Southern friends would have been well satisfied with the progress of their respective States. As it was, however, they were as much astonished at the facts shown in 1880 as were the people of the North. The increase of the percentage of increase in South Carolina from  $\frac{3}{16}$  of 1 per cent. in 1870 to 41.1 per cent. in 1880 was pronounced by the critics of 1880 "partisan fraud." But the facts stood, and they are verified by the count of 1890, as will be seen in the following

table showing the rates of increase during the last three decades in these States, and illustrating the imperfections of the census of 1870 in a somewhat startling manner :

States.	1860 to 1870.	Per cent. of increase,	
		1870 to 1880.	1880 to 1890.
Virginia.....	<i>a</i> 4.4	23.4	9.0
North Carolina.....	7.9	30.6	15.5
South Carolina.....	0.2	41.0	15.2
Georgia.....	11.9	30.2	18.9
Alabama.....	3.4	26.6	19.4
Mississippi.....	4.6	36.6	13.5
Louisiana.....	2.6	29.3	18.8
Kentucky.....	14.3	24.8	12.5
Tennessee.....	13.4	22.5	14.4

*a* Of Virginia and West Virginia together.

Taking what is popularly called the "Solid South," together with the District of Columbia, the following table shows the relation that the population of these States bears to the whole population of the country at each census since 1790 :

1790.....	49.91	1850.....	41.24
1800.....	49.39	1860.....	39.16
1810.....	48.08	1870.....	36.33
1820.....	46.56	1880.....	37.25
1830.....	45.46	1890.....	35.95
1840.....	42.97		

This table shows that the proportion has constantly decreased, except in the single decade from 1870 to 1880, thus adding force to the argument that the enumeration of 1870 was defective, giving rise to an apparently-abnormal increase in 1880.

From 1790 to 1880 the proportion decreased from 49.91 to 37.25 per cent.—an average decrease of 1.41 in each of the nine decades. The census of 1880 is not questioned. Subtracting, therefore, from 37.25, the percentage for 1880, 1.41, the proportionate decrease to be expected, leaves 35.84, the mathematical probability for 1890. The census of 1890 actually gives, however, 35.95—a result differing by only .11 from what was to be expected (35.84), and by so much larger than the law of averages requires.

It may be said, however, that the war period has been included in making the average, and that it is therefore too small. The truth is just the opposite. From 1790 to 1860 the decrease was from 49.91 to 39.16 per cent.—an average decrease of 1.54 per cent. Subtracting this from 37.25, the percentage for 1880, leaves 35.71 as the percentage to be expected in 1890 on that basis. Once more, from 1830 to 1860—a period when the South was practically supreme in the nation—the decrease averaged 2.10 per cent. in each decade. Subtracting this from the percentage for

1880 (37.25) leaves 35.15 to be expected in 1890 on that basis. In each case the theoretical result is decidedly less than the one actually reported. The 1790-1880 average is the best one for use, however, because it is the one based on the largest number of data; and this is the one which is in close agreement with the census report, what difference there is being in this, as in all cases, in favor of the census. Summing up these comparisons, the relative importance of the Southern States in point of population in 1890 would be, according to rate of change, as follows:

1830-1860.....	35.15 of whole population.
1790-1860.....	35.71 of whole population.
1790-1880.....	35.84 of whole population.
Census of 1890.....	35.95 of whole population.

It has been urged that, while there were serious omissions in the census of 1870, the aggregate was not sufficient to account for the entire decline in the rate of increase. A study of the rate of increase of the total colored population (slaves and free) from 1790 to 1860 refutes this theory, and establishes beyond doubt that a much larger number of colored persons were omitted in 1870 than those who incline to this idea suspect. I have prepared this table showing the growth of the colored population from 1790 to 1880, the figures for 1890 not being yet attainable:

Year.	Total number colored persons.	Percentage of increase.
1790.....	757,208	
1800.....	1,002,037	32
1810.....	1,377,808	37
1820.....	1,771,656	29
1830.....	2,328,642	31
1840.....	2,873,648	23
1850.....	3,638,808	23
1860.....	4,441,830	22
1870.....	4,880,009	10
1880.....	6,580,793	35

If these figures are correct for 1870, the increase of colored persons between the years 1860 and 1870 was nearly 700,000 less than in the decade before, while the percentage of increase dropped from 22 to 10. In 1880 it took a sudden leap to 35 per cent.—higher by more than 10 per cent. than for the three decades preceding 1870.

If any further proof is necessary to establish the fact that the disappointment as respects the population in the Southern States to-day is the result of the abnormal apparent increase of ten years ago, and not of defective enumeration, it can be produced. Omitting from consideration those States in which the census of 1870 is known or is presumed to have been faulty, the rate of

increase between 1870 and 1880 in the remaining States has been very nearly maintained in the decade between 1880 and 1890, as shown in the following table :

Year.	Population.	Increase in population.	Percentage of increase.
1870.....	26,270,351		
1880.....	33,639,215	7,368,864	28.1
1890.....	42,693,682	9,054,467	26.9

It will be seen that the actual increase between 1880 and 1890 exceeded that between 1870 and 1880 by 1,685,603, and that the proportional increase was but 1.2 per cent. less. Here we have corroborative proof. Even those who lay stress on the percentage of increase have little to complain of in that portion of the country in which the enumeration for the last three decades has been satisfactory, since the decline in the rate of increase has been so small.

The enumeration of the people has been fairly and thoroughly prosecuted by competent officers, and the results will stand any reasonable statistical tests that may be applied. Any attacks made for political purposes or inspired by municipalities convicted by the Census Office of padding will fall to the ground. An attempt has been made by certain politicians to create the idea that the census was inflated in certain Republican States and depressed in certain Democratic States for the purpose of reducing Democratic representation. On this charge it is only necessary to produce the alleged victim in sound health to refute completely the charge of murder. The total population of the United States is 62,480,540. Out of this should properly be deducted those new Northwestern States and territories where the growth of population is abnormal. This throws out of the calculation 4,689,413, and allows for a basis of comparison a population, comprising Democratic, Republican, and doubtful States, of 57,791,127. Here is the percentage of growth, Democratic and Republican States being placed in juxtaposition :

PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN STATES  
BETWEEN 1880 AND 1890 :

Pennsylvania.....	22.55	Mississippi.....	13.55
Alabama.....	19.45	Maine.....	1.75
Illinois.....	24.06	Tennessee.....	14.35
Louisiana.....	18.82	New York.....	17.69
Texas.....	49.24	Maryland.....	11.28
California.....	39.24	Indiana.....	10.65
Arkansas.....	40.23	Virginia.....	9.01
Wisconsin.....	27.99	Nevada (decrease).....	28.81

PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN STATES  
BETWEEN 1880 AND 1890.

Florida.....	44.88	South Carolina.....	15.23
Kansas.....	42.91	Vermont (decrease).....	0.02
Georgia.....	18.95	Rhode Island .....	24.88
Connecticut.....	19.78	West Virginia.....	22.96
New Jersey.....	27.40	Ohio.....	14.65
Michigan.....	27.66	Delaware.....	14.50
Missouri.....	23.46	Kentucky.....	12.54
Massachusetts.....	25.26	New Hampshire.....	8.31
Iowa.....	17.36		
North Carolina.....	15.54		

Percentage of increase of 34 States.....	20.50
Percentage of increase of Western States and territories.....	112.27
Percentage of increase of the entire country.....	21.57
Largest percentage of increase in any one Democratic State .....	44.88
Largest percentage of increase in any one Republican State.....	42.91
Smallest percentage of increase in any one Democratic State....	9.01
Smallest percentage of increase or greatest decrease in any one Republican State (decrease).....	28.81
Percentage of increase of 16 Democratic States.....	19.79
Percentage of increase of 14 Republican States.....	22.43
Percentage of increase of 4 doubtful States .....	7.39

If any politicians can see "politics" in the fact that Pennsylvania increased 22.50 and Alabama 19.50 per cent.; Texas 40.25 per cent. and California 39.25 per cent.; Florida nearly 45 per cent. and Kansas nearly 43 per cent.; Kentucky 12.50 per cent. and Indiana only 10.50 per cent.; Arkansas 40.25 and Wisconsin 28 per cent., they are welcome to the "discovery." And if they can see in these increases and these percentages evidence of a "dark plot" to "overturn free government" and "uproot the Constitution," I have no desire to curtail their amusement or to object to their platitudes. The facts show that if such a conspiracy existed it was a melancholy failure.

And now a word in conclusion about the American method of taking a census. For this country it is unquestionably the best ; in fact, it is the only system possible. That it is a perfect system no one who knows anything about census-taking will claim. The improvements I would suggest are greater simplicity in the population schedule by a reduction of the number of questions ; the omission of such inquiries as those relating to mortgage indebtedness, physical disability, etc.; smaller supervisors' districts, smaller enumeration districts, and increased *per-capita* pay for enumerators. All these changes must be made by Congress, as the Superintendent of Census under the present act is compelled to obtain certain information through the enumerators, and must put the questions on the schedules. Instead of 175 supervisors'

districts, I would have at least 500, and instead of 50,000 enumerators, the number should be 100,000.

Next April they will take a census for the United Kingdom. The authorities informed me a few weeks ago, when I was in London, that in England and Wales about 40,000 enumerators will be employed. For the entire United Kingdom the number will aggregate 55,000, and this army will be supervised by not less than 4,000 superintendent-registrars, registrars, and police inspectors. To cover the United States, from the stand-point of area, as England will be covered next April, it would take 400,000 enumerators, instead of 42,000. Surely an enumeration thus conducted would yield more accurate results. Each of the English enumerators is employed about a week, and receives on an average \$7.50 compensation.

While the English census will be full and accurate, so far as counting the population is concerned, and while we may strengthen our system in the way suggested, the Eleventh Census of the United States, when completed in all its branches, will stand unequalled by any similar publication of any government in the world. Those who vilify and slander it will take their places alongside of the men who, only a century ago, opposed the idea of a census for fear that it would bring on an epidemic of contagious diseases.

ROBERT P. PORTER.